Case:17-03283-LTS Doc#:15144 Filed:11/16/20 Entered:11/16/20 17:36:50 Desc: Main Document Page 1 of 22

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. AST

Objection Deadline: December 7, 2020 (for parties other than the Fee Examiner)

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, et al.

Debtors.<sup>1</sup>

PROMESA Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

SUMMARY COVER TO THE TENTH INTERIM APPLICATION OF SEGAL CONSULTING FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED AS ACTUARIES AND CONSULTANTS TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO FROM JUNE 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Name of Applicant: Segal Consulting

Authorized to Provide Services To:

The Official Committee of Retired

Employees of the Commonwealth

of Puerto Rico

Period for which compensation is sought: June 1, 2020 through September

30, 2020

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The Debtors in these jointly-administered PROMESA title III cases, along with each Debtor's respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are: (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric and Power Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 19 BK 5523-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

# Case:17-03283-LTS Doc#:15144 Filed:11/16/20 Entered:11/16/20 17:36:50 Desc: Main Document Page 2 of 22

Monthly Fee Statements subject to the request: June 2020 – September 2020

Total compensation sought this period: \$124,430

Total expenses sought this period: \$0.00

Petition Date: May 3, 2017

Retention Date: June 27, 2017

Date of Order Approving Employment: August 10, 2017

Total compensation approved by interim order to date: \$2,785,229.24

Total expenses approved by interim order to date: \$26,277.99

Total compensation paid to date: \$2,877,710.88

Total expenses paid to date: \$26,277.99

Total compensation subject to objection: None

Total expenses subject to objection:

None

Blended rate in this application for all professionals: \$539.83

Number of Professionals Included in this Application: 5

Difference Between Fees Budgeted and Compensation

Sought: \$11,130

Number of Professionals Billing Fewer than 15 Hours

to this Case:

Rates Higher than Those Disclosed at Retention: 5

Objection Deadline: December 7, 2020

This is an *interim* application.

Name	Title	Department	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Billed Hours	<b>Total Fees Billed</b>
Bridges, Geoffrey W.	Actuary	Pension	480.00	29.60	14,208.00
Johnson, Noel	Actuary	Pension	420.00	98.20	41,244.00
Nicholl, Kim M.	Senior Vice President	Pension	730.00	71.80	52,414.00
Strom, Matthew A.	SVP & Actuary	Pension	580.00	11.50	6,670.00
Timmons, Amy S.	VP & Sr. Consultant Administration	Pension	510.00	19.40	9,894.00
Sub-Total				230.50	124,430.00
Less 50% Discount on Non-Working Travel Matter:					(0.00)
Total					124,430.00

Hourly billing rates shown are the average rates for the fee application period.

Case:17-03283-LTS Doc#:15144 Filed:11/16/20 Entered:11/16/20 17:36:50 Desc: Main Document Page 4 of 22

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. AST

**Objection Deadline: December 7, 2020** (for parties other than the Fee Examiner)

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO.

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, et al.

Debtors.<sup>1</sup>

PROMESA Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

TENTH INTERIM APPLICATION OF SEGAL CONSULTING FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED AS ACTUARIES AND CONSULTANTS TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO FROM JUNE 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

To the Honorable United States District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain:

Segal Consulting ("Segal"), actuaries and consultants for The Official Committee of Retired Employees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the "Retiree Committee") in the above-captioned Title III cases ("Title III Cases"), hereby submits this ninth application ("Application")

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these jointly-administered PROMESA title III cases, along with each Debtor's respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are: (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric and Power Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 19 BK 5523-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

for allowance of compensation for professional services rendered, and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with such services, for the period from June 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 (the "Interim Period"). Segal submits this Application pursuant to sections 316 and 317 of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act ("PROMESA"), 48 U.S.C. §§ 2176, 2177; sections 105(a) and 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, 3 11 U.S.C. § 503(b); Rule 2016(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules")<sup>4</sup>; Rule 2016-1 of the Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the "Local Rules")<sup>5</sup>; the Court's Order Authorizing the Employment of Segal Consulting as Actuary and Consultants for the Committee of Retired Employees ("Retention Order") [Dkt. No. 1002]; the Court's Second Amended Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals ("Interim Compensation **Order**") [Dkt. No. 3269]; and the United States Trustee's Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Large Chapter 11 Cases Effective as of November 1, 2013 (the "UST Guidelines"); and the Fee Examiner's November 10, 2017 Memorandum (the "Fee Examiner Memorandum"); the First Amended Order Pursuant to PROMESA §§ 316 and 317 and Bankruptcy Code Section 105(a) Appointing a Fee Examiner and Related Relief ("Amended Fee Examiner Order") [Dkt. No.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PROMESA is codified at 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101–2241.

The Bankruptcy Code is codified at 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532. Unless otherwise noted, all Bankruptcy Code sections cited in the Application are made applicable to these Title III Cases pursuant to section 301(a) of PROMESA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> All Bankruptcy Rules referenced in this Application are made applicable to these Title III Cases pursuant to section 310 of PROMESA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Local Rules are made applicable here by the Court's *Order (A) Imposing and Rendering Applicable* Local Bankruptcy Rules to These Title III Cases, (B) Authorizing Establishment of Certain Notice, Case Management, and Administrative Procedures, and (C) Granting Related Relief [Dkt. No. 249].

3324]; the Order on Fee Examiner's Motion to Impose Presumptive Standards and Timeliness requirements for Professional Fee Applications (the "Presumptive Order") [Dkt. No. 3932]; the Order Imposing Additional Presumptive Standards: Rate Increases and the Retentions of Expert Witnesses or Other Sub-Retained Professionals ("Additional Presumptive Standards Order") [Dkt. No. 7678]; and the Fee Examiner's November 10, 2017 Memorandum (the "Fee Examiner Memorandum"). In support of the Application, Segal submits the Certification of Kim Nicholl (the "Nicholl Certification"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, and respectfully represents as follows:

# **Preliminary Statement**

1. On August 10, 2017, Segal was retained to represent the Retiree Committee, effective June 27, 2017. A copy of Segal's engagement letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. The Retiree Committee represents approximately 167,000 retired employees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("Commonwealth" or "Puerto Rico") and various Commonwealth agencies and instrumentalities and their surviving beneficiaries, including Puerto Rico's retired teachers, police officers, firefighters, judges, municipal clerks, engineers, and other government workers of all categories, who hold accrued pension benefits on account of having participated in the Employee Retirement System (the "ERS"), the Teachers Retirement System (the "TRS"), and/or the Judiciary Retirement System (the "JRS"), among other potential post-employment benefits (the "Retirees"). The pensions of the Retirees, along with those held by currently active employees who have participated in the ERS, TRS, and/or JRS, are collectively underfunded by at least \$50 billion. The Retirees are the largest group of creditors in these title III cases.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order and Local Rule 2016-1, the Retiree Committee is required to comply with the UST Guidelines.

- 2. During the Interim Period, Segal performed a variety of actuarial and consulting services that were necessary and appropriate for the efficient and economical resolution of the Retiree Committee's interests in the Title III Cases, including, among other things: responding to questions asked by independent experts hired by the Retiree Committee.
- 3. Segal's work during the Interim Period was necessary for, and beneficial to, the Retirees and served to ensure that the interests of the Retirees were properly represented and safeguarded in these Title III Cases. Segal is compensated on an hourly fee basis, plus reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by Segal.

### Jurisdiction

- 4. The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the "Court") has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to PROMESA section 306(a).
  - 5. Venue is proper pursuant to PROMESA section 307(a).
- 6. Segal makes this Application pursuant to PROMESA sections 316 and 317, Bankruptcy Code sections 105(a) and 503(b), Bankruptcy Rule 2016, Local Rule 2016-1, the Retention Order, the Interim Compensation Order, and the UST Guidelines.

#### **Background**

- 7. On May 3, 2017, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the "Commonwealth"), by and through the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (the "Oversight Board"), as the Commonwealth's representative pursuant to section 315(b) of PROMESA, filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.
- 8. On May 5, 2017, the Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("**COFINA**"), by and through the Oversight Board, as COFINA's representative pursuant to PROMESA section 315(b), filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.

- 9. On May 21, 2017, the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA"), by and through the Oversight Board, as HTA's representative pursuant to PROMESA section 315(b), filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.
- 10. On May 21, 2017, the Employees Retirement System for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS"), by and through the Oversight Board, as ERS's representative pursuant to PROMESA section 315(b), filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.
- 11. On July 3, 2017, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("**PREPA**"), by and through the Oversight Board, as PREPA's representative pursuant to PROMESA section 315(b), filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.
- 12. On September 27, 2019, the Puerto Rico Buildings Authority ("**PBA**"), by and through the FOMB, as PBA's representative pursuant to PROMESA section 315(b), filed a petition with the Court under title III of PROMESA.
- 13. Through Orders of this Court, the Commonwealth, COFINA, HTA, ERS, PREPA, and PBA title III cases (collectively, the "**Title III Cases**") are jointly administered for procedural purposes only, pursuant to PROMESA section 304(g) and Bankruptcy Rule 1015. [*See* Dkt. Nos. 242, 537, 1417, 8829.]
- 14. On June 15, 2017, U.S. Trustee, pursuant to section 1102(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, appointed the Retiree Committee, consisting of the following nine individuals: Blanca Paniagua, Carmen Nuñez, José Marin, Juan Ortiz, Lydia Pellot, Marcos A. Lopez, (Retired) Judge Miguel Fabre, Milagros Acevedo, and Rosario Pacheco. [Dkt. No. 340.]

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> José Marin resigned from the Retiree Committee effective April 12, 2018.

# **Segal's Retention and Fee Request**

- 15. On June 27, 2017, the Retiree Committee elected to employ Segal to advise the Retiree Committee. *See* Exhibit B.
- 16. On July 19, 2017, the Retiree Committee filed its *Application for an Order Approving the Employment of Segal Consulting* (the "**Retention Application**") [Dkt. No. 671] pursuant to sections 105(a) and 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code.<sup>8</sup>
- 17. On August 10, 2017, the Court entered an Order (the "Retention Order") [Dkt. No. 1004] approving Segal's retention as counsel to the Retiree Committee, effective June 27, 2017, on the terms and conditions identified in the Retention Application. A copy of the Retention Order is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Pursuant to the Retention Order, Segal is entitled to compensation for reasonable, actual, and necessary professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with the Title III Cases.
- 18. On October 6, 2017, the Court entered an Order appointing Brady Williamson as the fee examiner (the "Fee Examiner") in these Title III Cases. [Dkt No. 1416.]
- 19. On December 15, 2017, Segal filed its First Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From June 16, 2017 Through September 30, 2017 (the "First Interim Application") [Dkt. No. 2049], seeking \$223,475.00 in compensation and \$5,305.47 in expenses. On March 7, 2018, the Court entered an Order approving the First Interim Application (the "First Interim Order") [Dkt No. 2685] in the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In a chapter 11 case, a committee appointed under section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code ordinarily would seek authority to employ counsel pursuant to section 328. Because PROMESA does not incorporate section 328 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Retiree Committee moved for approval of its Retention Application pursuant to sections 105(a) and 1103(a). *See* PROMESA § 301(a) (omitting Bankruptcy Code sections 327 and 328 from incorporation into PROMESA).

amount of \$223,475.00 in compensation and \$5,305.47 in expenses. Segal has been paid \$223,475.00 of fees and \$5,305.47 of expenses approved in the First Interim Order.

- 20. On March 19, 2018, Segal filed its Second Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From October 1, 2017 Through January 31, 2018 (the "Second Interim Application") [Dkt. No. 2742], seeking \$482,920.00 in compensation and \$4,405.59 in expenses. On June 8, 2018, the Court entered an order approving the Second Interim Application (the "Second Interim Order") [Dkt No. 3656] in the amount of \$476,187.80 in compensation and \$3,741.58 in expenses. Segal has been paid \$476,187.80 of fees and \$3,741.58 of expenses approved in the Second Interim Order.
- 21. On July 16, 2018, Segal filed its Third Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From February 1, 2018 Through May 31, 2018 (the "Third Interim Application") [Dkt. No. 4200], seeking \$268,316.00 in compensation and \$4,015.79 in expenses. On November 9, 2018, the Court entered an order approving the Third Interim Application [Dkt No. 4200] in the amount of \$255,563.33 in compensation and \$4,015.79 in expenses, reflecting \$12,752.67 in fee reductions and \$0.00 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$254,953.56 of fees and \$4,015.79 of expenses approved in the Third Interim Order.
- 22. On November 16, 2018, Segal filed its Fourth Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From June 1, 2018 Through September 30, 2018 (the "Fourth Interim Application") [Dkt. No. 4320], seeking \$384,373.00 in compensation and \$6,450.30 in expenses. On March 14, 2019, the Court entered an Order approving the Fourth Interim Application [Dkt. No. 5654] in the amount of \$378,963.00 in compensation and \$5,164.90 in expenses, reflecting \$5,410.00 in fee reductions and \$1,130.66

in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$377,734.64 of fees and \$5,164.90 of expenses approved in the Fourth Interim Order.

- On March 18, 2019, Segal filed its Fifth Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From October 1, 2018 Through January 31, 2019 (the "**Fifth Interim Application**") [Dkt. No. 5806], seeking \$312,422.00 in compensation and \$1,237.68 in expenses. On June 26, 2019, the Court entered an Order approving the Fifth Interim Application [Dkt. No. 7670] in the amount of \$309,575.35 in compensation and \$1,083.41 in expenses, reflecting \$2,846.65 in fee reductions and \$154.27 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$309,575.35 of fees and \$1,083.41 of expenses approved in the Fifth Interim Order.
- 24. On July 15, 2019, Segal filed its Sixth Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred From February 1, 2019 Through May 31, 2019 (the "Sixth Interim Application") [Dkt. No. 7976], seeking \$515,941.00 in compensation and \$5,293.31 in expenses. On October 29, 2019, the Court entered an Order approving the Sixth Interim Application [Dkt. No. 9046] in the amount of \$505,361.95 in compensation and \$4,986.81 in expenses, reflecting \$10,579.05 in fee reductions and \$306.50 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$505,361.95 of fees and \$4,986.81 of expenses approved in the Sixth Interim Order.
- 25. On November 15, 2019, Segal filed its Seventh Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred from June 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 (the "Seventh Interim Application"), seeking \$268,005.00 in compensation and \$0 in expenses. On May 18, 2020, the Court entered an Order approving the Seventh Interim Application [Dkt. No. 13150] in the amount of \$266,210.32 in compensation and

\$0 in expenses, reflecting \$1,794.68 in fee reductions and \$0 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$265,835.23 of fees and \$0 of expenses approved in the Seventh Interim Order.

- 26. On March 15, 2020, Segal filed its Eighth Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred from October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 (the "Eighth Interim Application"), seeking \$232,900.00 in compensation and \$2,013.99 in expenses. On July 24, 2020, the Court entered an Order approving the Eighth Interim Application [Dkt. No. 13824] in the amount of \$230,212.29 in compensation and \$1,980.03 in expenses, reflecting \$2,687.71 in fee reductions and \$33.96 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$210,939.34 of fees and \$1,980.03 of expenses approved in the Eighth Interim Order.
- 27. On July 15, 2020, Segal filed its Ninth Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred from February 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 (the "Ninth Interim Application"), seeking \$142,025.00 in compensation and \$0 in expenses. On October 26, 2020, the Court entered an Order approving the Ninth Interim Application [Dkt. No. 14925] in the amount of \$139,680.20 in compensation and \$0 in expenses, reflecting \$2,344.80 in fee reductions and \$0 in expense reductions recommended by the Fee Examiner and agreed to by Segal. Segal has been paid \$138,271.51 of fees and \$0 of expenses requested in the Ninth Interim Application.
- 28. The cover sheet to this Application contains a schedule setting forth all Segal actuaries, consultants, and professionals who have performed services in the Title III Cases during the Interim Period, the capacity in which each individual is employed by Segal, the hourly billing

rate charged for services performed by such individual, the aggregate number of hours expended in this case and fees billed therefore.

- 29. By this Application, Segal seeks allowance of compensation in the amount of \$124,430.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$0.00. Segal has previously received \$2,851,432.89 for services performed and \$26,277.99 for reimbursement for expenses incurred through September 30, 2020.
- 30. This is Segal's tenth request for interim compensation in these Title III Cases. As set forth in the Nicholl Certification, all of the services for which interim compensation is sought herein were rendered for and on behalf of the Retiree Committee in connection with these Title III Cases. To the best of the Segal's knowledge and as disclosed in the *Declaration Of Kim Nicholl In Support Of Application of the Official Committee of Retired Employees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for Order Approving the Employment and Retention of Segal Consulting* [Dkt. No. 670-2] and *First Supplemental Declaration of Kim Nicholl In Support Of Application For Order Approving The Employment Of Segal Consulting* [Dkt. No. 1766] (together, the "Nicholl Declarations"), Segal is a "disinterested person" as defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specified in the Nicholl Declarations, Segal's actuaries, consultants, and professionals do not hold or represent any interest adverse to the Retiree Committee.
- 31. Segal might have in the past provided actuarial and consulting services, might currently provide actuarial and consulting services, and likely in the future will provide actuarial and consulting services to parties in interest in this case in connection with matters unrelated to the Retiree Committee or the Title III Cases. In the Nicholl Declarations, Segal disclosed its connections to parties in interest in the Title III Cases that it has been able to ascertain using its

reasonable efforts. Segal will update such disclosures, as appropriate, if Segal becomes aware of relevant and material new information.

- 32. Segal performed the services for which it is seeking compensation on behalf of the Retiree Committee and not on behalf of any other committee, creditor, or other entity.
- 33. Segal has not received payment or promise of payment from any source other than the Commonwealth for services provided or to be provided in any capacity whatsoever in connection with the Title III Cases.

# I. Fees and Expenses Incurred During Interim Period

# A. Customary Billing Disclosures

- 34. Segal's hourly rates are set at a level designed to compensate Segal fairly for the work of its actuaries, consultants, and professionals and to cover fixed and routine expenses. The hourly rates and corresponding rate structure utilized by Segal in the Title III Cases are equivalent to the hourly rates and corresponding rate structure used by Segal for similar complex actuarial consulting assignments, regardless of whether a fee application is required. The rates and rate structure reflect that such complex matters typically are national in scope and typically involve great complexity, high stakes, and intense time pressures.
- 35. **Exhibit D** to this Application is a summary of blended hourly rates for professionals for which Segal is seeking hourly compensation in this Application, as required by the UST Guidelines.

## B. Fees Incurred During Interim Period

36. In the ordinary course of Segal's practice, Segal maintains records of the time spent on the professional services provided to the Retiree Committee. **Exhibit E** to this Application is a summary of fees incurred and hours worked during the Interim Period for which compensation is sought on an hourly basis in this Application, setting forth the following information:

- the name of each actuary, consultant, and professional for whose work compensation is sought;
- the aggregate time worked and fees billed by each actuary, consultant, and professional during the Interim Period;
- the hourly billing rate for each such actuary, consultant, and professional at Segal's current billing rates; and
- a calculation of total compensation requested using the rates disclosed in the Segal Application.

# C. Expenses Incurred During Interim Period

37. In the ordinary course of Segal's practice, Segal maintains a record of expenses incurred in rendering professional services to the Retiree Committee and for which reimbursement is sought. As reflected in **Exhibit F** to this Application, Segal is not seeking reimbursement of expenses during the Interim Period.

# II. Summary of Professional Services Provided During the Interim Period

- 38. During the Interim Period, Segal provided important professional and actuarial services to the Retiree Committee in connection with the Title III Cases. Detailed descriptions of the specific services provided and the time expended performing such services are attached as **Exhibit H**, and a summary of the services Segal provided to the Retiree Committee during the Interim Period is set forth in paragraphs 40 through 48 below.
- 39. Segal has established, in accordance with its internal billing procedures, subject matters categories (each, a "Matter Category") for keeping time records of the work performed for the Retiree Committee. A schedule setting forth a description of each Matter Category utilized in this case, the number of hours worked by Segal actuaries, consultants, and professionals for each Matter Category, and the aggregate fees associated with each Matter Category is attached as **Exhibit G**. In addition, subject to redaction for work product and confidentiality where necessary to protect the Retiree Committee, Segal's records of time worked providing professional services to the Retiree Committee are attached hereto as **Exhibit H**.

40. The following is a summary, by Matter Category, of the professional services provided by Segal during the Interim Period. This summary is organized in accordance with Segal's internal system of matter numbers.

# **Actuarial Analysis**

Fees: \$61,705.00 Total Hours: 126.10

41. Segal's recorded time entries in this category reflect confidential actuarial analysis.

#### Research

Fees: \$0.00 Total Hours: 0.00

42. Segal did not have any fees in this matter code in this period.

## **Data Analysis**

**Fees: \$0.00 Total Hours: 0.00** 

43. Segal did not have any fees in this matter code in this period.

## **Calls & Meetings with other Professionals**

Fees: \$29,277.00 Total Hours: 52.60

44. Segal's recorded time entries in this category reflect participating in conference calls to discuss strategy and roles, work coordination, and pension treatment.

## **Preparation of Reports**

Fees: \$0.00 Total Hours: 0.00

45. Segal did not have any fees in this matter code in this period.

# **Retiree Committee Meetings**

Fees: \$5,868.00 Total Hours: 10.80

46. Segal's recorded time entries in this category reflect participating in Retiree Committee conference calls.

#### Case Administration

Fees: \$27,630.00 Total Hours: 41.00

47. Segal's recorded time entries in this category reflect reviewing court filings; coordination of work; preparation of invoices, preparation of budgets; reviewing and responding to feedback from the fee examiner; preparation of the ninth interim fee application; and updating on case issues.

# **Non-Working Travel Time**

**Fees: \$0.00 Total Hours: 0.00** 

48. Segal did not have any fees in this matter code in this period.

# III. Actual and Necessary Expenses Incurred by Segal during the Interim Period

49. Segal incurred no expenses on behalf of the Retiree Committee during the Interim Period.

# IV. Segal's Requested Compensation Should Be Allowed

50. The services for which Segal seeks compensation in this Application were, at the time provided, necessary for and beneficial to the Retiree Committee. Segal performed these services economically, effectively, and efficiently, and they benefited the Retiree Committee. Segal submits that the compensation requested is reasonable in light of the nature, extent, and value of such services to the Retiree Committee. Accordingly, Segal submits the compensation sought in this Application is warranted and should be approved.

# A. Compensation under Sections 316 and 317 of PROMESA

51. Section 317 of PROMESA authorizes interim compensation of professionals and incorporates the substantive standards of section 316 of PROMESA to govern the Court's award of interim compensation. Section 316 of PROMESA provides that a court may award a professional employed under section 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered," and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 48 U.S.C. § 2176(a)(1), (2). Section 316(c) sets forth the criteria for such an award:

In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a professional person, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including—

- (1) the time spent on such services;
- (2) the rates charged for such services;
- (3) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this chapter;
- (4) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed;
- (5) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the restructuring field; and
- (6) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this subchapter or Title 11.

48 U.S.C. § 2176(c).

52. As analyzed below, Segal submits the elements governing awards of compensation under PROMESA justify the allowance requested.

## 1. The Time and Labor Required

53. During the Interim Period, Segal's actuaries, consultants, and professionals spent 230.50 hours providing professional services to the Retiree Committee for which Segal seeks compensation on an hourly basis. Segal required this amount of time to conduct its actuarial analyses arising from the Title III Cases and the other tasks described herein.

## 2. The Rates Charged for Such Services

54. During the Interim Period, Segal's hourly billing rates ranged from \$580.00 per hour to \$730.00 per hour for Senior Vice President. Segal's hourly billing rates ranged from \$510.00 to \$510.00 for VP & Actuary, and from \$420.00 to \$480.00 for Actuaries. Based on the

recorded hours expended by Segal's actuaries, consultants, and professionals, the average hourly billing rate for Segal's services was \$539.83.

- 55. Segal's hourly rates are set at a level designed to compensate Segal fairly for the work of its actuaries, consultants, and professionals and to cover certain fixed and routine overhead expenses. Hourly rates vary with the experience and seniority of the individuals assigned. These hourly rates are subject to periodic adjustments to reflect economic and other conditions and are consistent with the rates charged elsewhere.
- 56. The hourly rates and corresponding rate structure that Segal charges in these cases are equivalent to or less than the hourly rates and corresponding rate structure that Segal charges for similar complex actuarial consulting assignments, regardless of whether a fee application is required.

## 3. The Necessity of the Services and the Benefit to the Estate

- 57. As described herein, the services rendered by Segal were necessary for the efficient and economical resolution of the Retiree Committee's interests in the Title III Cases. All of those services directly benefitted the Retiree Committee.
- 58. The Retiree Committee has reviewed the Application and has approved the compensation and reimbursement of expenses requested herein.

# 4. The Reasonableness of the Time Spent, Based on the Complexity, Importance, Nature of the Issues

59. Segal's work involved the representation of the Title III Cases' largest creditor constituency—Puerto Rico's approximately 167,000 retired teachers, police officers, firefighters, judges, municipal clerks, engineers, and other government workers of all categories—and Segal's professional services during the Interim Period were necessary to ensure that the interests of the Retirees were properly represented and safeguarded and that all matters relevant to the Retiree

Committee were handled in an appropriate manner. The compensation requested is reasonable in light of those services.

# 5. The Experience, Reputation, and Ability of the Actuaries and Consultants Providing Services

60. Segal actuaries and consultants have achieved a high degree of expertise and positive reputations in their respective fields. Segal's Public Plan actuaries and consultants frequently receive recognition for their skill and achievements, and Segal is frequently cited as one of the leading actuarial consulting firms in this field.

# 6. Customary Compensation

- 61. The work for which Segal seeks compensation in this Application is of the type and nature for which Segal customarily would seek compensation at the rates identified in this Application. In addition, the compensation Segal seeks in this Application is comparable to the compensation it would have sought for comparable work outside of a Title III case.
- 62. Segal submits that the compensation requested is reasonable under all the factors considered under sections 316 and 317 of PROMESA and that the factors justify the allowance in full of Segal's compensation and reimbursement request.
- 63. In view of the foregoing, Segal respectfully requests that it be allowed interim compensation in the amount of \$124,430.00 for services rendered during the Interim Period.

# B. Reasonable and Necessary Expenses Incurred in Providing Services to the Retiree Committee.

64. For the Interim Period, Segal requests reimbursement of \$0.00 for reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred on behalf of the Retiree Committee.

# V. Statement by Segal Under ¶ C(5) of the UST Guidelines

65. None of the professionals included in this Application varied their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the Title III Cases.

- 66. The Application does not include time or fees related to reviewing or revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices.
- 67. The Application does not include time or fees for reviewing time records to redact any privileged or other confidential information.
- 68. The hourly rates specified in the Retention Application were effective January 1, 2017, and have increased for certain professionals effective January 1, 2018, January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020. Segal's engagement letter with the Retiree Committee provides that Segal's scheduled hourly rates are periodically adjusted, generally at the beginning of a calendar year.
- 69. Consistent with the UST Guidelines and the Fee Examiner Memorandum Segal submits monthly budgets to the Fee Examiner beginning January 2018.

# **Reservation of Rights and Notice**

- 70. It is possible that some professional time expended or expenses incurred during the Interim Period are not reflected in the Application. Segal reserves the right to include such amounts in future fee applications.
- 71. Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order, the Retiree Committee has provided notice of this Application to: (a) the U.S. Trustee; (b) counsel to the Oversight Board; (c) counsel to the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority; (d) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors; (e) the Fee Examiner; and (f) all parties that have filed a notice of appearance with the Clerk of this Court, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 and applicable provisions of the Local Rules, and requested such notice.

# **No Prior Request**

72. No prior application for the relief requested by this Application has been made to this or any other court.

WHEREFORE, Segal respectfully requests that the Court enter an order: (a) awarding Segal compensation for actuarial, consulting, and professional services provided during the Interim Period in the amount of \$124,430.00; and (b) granting such other relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Dated: November 16, 2020 Respectfully submitted,

SEGAL CONSULTING

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